

CLAIMS

1. A vehicle body configured for attachment to a chassis, the body comprising:

5 a body floor configured to extend substantially the entire length of the chassis;

a seat assembly supported by the floor;

10 a driver interface supported with respect to the floor adjacent the seat assembly to communicate vehicle control signals to the chassis from a seated driver; and

an interface on a bottom surface of the floor configured for attachment to the chassis.

2. The body of claim 1, wherein said interface is configured to conform to a standardized interface system wherein mechanical and electrical connection components of the body and chassis complement each other and are sufficiently aligned such that different styles of conforming bodies may be mated to any conforming chassis without need for modification to either the chassis or body to facilitate attachment.

3. The body of claim 2, further comprising an enclosure connected to the floor for sheltering occupants within the body, wherein the enclosure is connected to opposing ends of the floor such that the enclosure extends substantially the entire length of the floor so that substantially the entire length of the floor is accessible and usable space for occupants.

4. The body of claim 2, wherein the body is selected from the group consisting of sedans, pickup trucks, convertibles, coupes, vans, station wagons, sport-utility vehicles, and other types of transports.

5. For use in combination with a vehicle chassis, a vehicle body comprising:

an enclosure configured to shelter a vehicle occupant;

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a driver communication interface positioned within the enclosure to communicate vehicle control signals to the chassis from a vehicle driver; and

10 a chassis-attachment interface connected to the enclosure and configured for selective attachment to the chassis, said chassis-attachment interface being configured to conform to a standardized interface system wherein mechanical and electrical connection components of the body and chassis complement each other and are sufficiently aligned such that any conforming body may be mated to any conforming chassis without modification to either the chassis or body at the interface.

6. The body of claim 5, wherein the enclosure is supported by a floor which extends substantially the entire length of the chassis, so that substantially the entire length of the floor is accessible and usable space for occupants.

7. The body of claim 6, wherein the floor is substantially flat.

8. The body of claim 6, further comprising at least one seat supported on the floor.

9. The body of claim 6, further comprising at least one releasable connector for releasably attaching the enclosure to the floor.

10. The body of claim 5, wherein the chassis-attachment interface includes a plurality of load-transmitting chassis-attachment couplings positioned for attachment to corresponding load-bearing couplings on the chassis.

11. The body of claim 5, wherein the enclosure is selected from the body-style group consisting of sedans, pickup trucks, convertibles, coupes, vans, station wagons, sport-utility vehicles, and other types of transports.

12. A vehicle body comprising:

a body skeleton structure having body openings formed therein; and

5 each of said body openings being covered by non-metal closeout panels.

13. The vehicle body of claim 12, wherein said non-metal closeout panels comprise materials selected from the group consisting of fabric, wood, plastic, rubber, nylon, webbing, canvas and mylar.

14. The vehicle body of claim 13, wherein said non-metal closeout panels are removably attached over the body openings to facilitate interchangeability.

15. The vehicle body of claim 12, wherein said body skeleton structure and closeout panels form an enclosure for sheltering occupants within the body, wherein the enclosure is connected to opposing ends of a body floor such that the enclosure extends substantially the entire length of the floor so that substantially
5 the entire length of the floor is accessible and usable space for occupants.

16. The vehicle body of claim 12, further comprising a substantially flat body floor operatively connected to the skeleton structure.

17. The vehicle body of claim 12, wherein said body skeleton structure and close-out panels form an enclosure for sheltering occupants within the body and wherein the body further comprises at least one seat within the enclosure.

18. The vehicle body of claim 12, wherein one of said non-metal close-out panels forms a hood or fender of the body.

19. The vehicle body of claim 18, wherein said non-metal close-out panels comprise materials selected from the group consisting of fabric, wood, plastic and rubber.